REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical error of the specification has been amended.

In paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of the Action, claims 1-3, 6 and 7 were rejected by Takahashi and Kobayashi et al. However, in paragraph 7 of the Action, claims 4-5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the rejections and indication of allowability, claims 1, 3, 6 and 7 have been amended, and claim 4 has been amended to independent form. New claims 8-10 have been added.

An attaching structure of claim 1 of the invention is used for attaching a valve device to a fuel tank. The attaching structure comprises a functional component fixed inside the fuel tank, and a bracket having a first attaching portion attached to the functional component and a second attaching portion for receiving the valve device therein. The valve device is attached to the fuel tank through the bracket attached to the functional component which is fixed to the fuel tank.

In particular, when the functional component is a pipe, the bracket is attached to the pipe through the first attaching portion, e.g. clip, and the valve device is attached to the bracket through the second attaching portion. Namely, the bracket is supported and held by the pipe, and the valve device is attached to the pipe through the bracket. In other words, the valve device is attached to the fuel tank through the pipe by the bracket.

In Fig. 3 of Takahashi, a fuel cut device 10 is attached to a fuel tank 42 through a fitting 44, and a two-way valve 38 is attached to a port 28 of the fuel cut device 10. One pipe is connected to another port 28 of the fuel cut device, and another pipe is connected to a port 46 of the two-way valve 38. Namely, the fuel cut device 10 is supported by the fitting 44 attached to

the fuel tank, and the pipes are supported by the fuel cut device 10 and two-way valve 38 attached thereto.

In claim 1 of the invention, the bracket includes the first attaching portion attached to the functional component and the second attaching portion for receiving the valve device therein. In Takahashi, the fitting 44 receives and supports the fuel cut device 10, but the fitting 44 is simply attached to the fuel tank, not attached to any other member. Namely, there is no first attaching portion of claim 1, which is attached to the functional component.

In the invention, the valve device is attached to the fuel tank through the bracket attached to the functional component which is fixed to the fuel tank. In Takahashi, the valve device is attached to the fuel tank by the bracket, not any other member.

Therefore, the structure of the invention now claimed in claim 1 is not anticipated by Takahashi.

Claim 6 includes the limitation as in claim 1. Therefore, claim 6 is not anticipated by Takahashi as well.

In Kobayashi et al., a valve arrangement A is attached to a tank 2 through a bracket 3, and a tube 5 connects the valve arrangement A to a canister4. Although the tube 5 extends from the outside to the inside of the tank 2, there is no specific bracket as defined in claim 1.

As explained above, the features of the invention now claimed are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Even if the cited references are combined, the invention is not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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